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Claims:

- 1. A method of diagnosing diabetes, the method comprising determining the level or ratio of P- and/or A-type inositolphosphoglycans (IPGs) in a biological sample from a patient.
 - 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample is a blood or urine sample.

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- 3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the level of the P- or A-type IPGs is determined using an assay for one of their biological activities.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the level of the P-type IPGs is determined in an assay measuring activation of pyruvate dehydrogenase phosphatase by P-type IPGs.
- 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the level of the A-type IPGs is determined in an assay measuring activation of lipogenesis by A-type IPGs in isolated adipocytes.
 - 6. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the level of the P- or A-type IPGs is determined using a binding agent capable of specifically binding P- or A-type IPGs.
 - 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the binding agent is an anti-IPG antibody or an IPG specific binding protein.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the method comprises the steps of:
 - (a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with a solid support having immobilised thereon a first binding agent having binding sites specific for one or more P-type IPGs and a second binding agent having binding sites for one or more A-type IPGs;
 - (b) contacting the solid support with one or more

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labelled developing agents capable of binding to unoccupied binding sites, bound IPGs or occupied binding sites; and,

- (c) detecting the label of the developing agents specifically binding in step (b) to obtain values representative of the levels of the P- and A-type IPGs in the sample.
- 9. The method of claim 8 comprising the further step of:

 (d) using the values to obtain a ratio of the P- and
 A-type IPGs in the sample.
 - 10. Use of P- or A-type inositolphosphoglycans (IPGs), or antagonists to P- or A-type IPGs, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diabetes.
- 11. The use of claim 10 wherein the medicament is formulated to provide a ratio of P- and A-type IPGs in a patient having diabetes of from about 4:1 to about 6:1.
- 20 12. The use of claim 11 wherein the ratio of P- and A-type IPGs is about 6:1 for a male patient and about 4:1 for a female patient.
- 13. Use of a P-type IPG and/or an A-type IPG antagonist in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of obese type II diabetes.
- 14. Use of a mixture of P-type and A-type IPGs in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of IDDM or lean type II diabetes (NIDDM).
 - 15. The use of claim 14 wherein the P- and A-type IPGs are in the ratio of about 6:1 for male patients and about 4:1 mixture for female patients.
 - 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a P-type IPG and/or an A-type IPG antagonist in combination with a

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pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of P- and A-type IPGs in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17 wherein the P/A-type IPG ratio is from about 4:1 to about 6:1.
- 10 19. A method of screening for P- or A-type IPG antagonists, the method comprising:
 - (a) contacting a candidate antagonist and a P- or A-type IPG in an assay for a biological property of the P- or A-type IPG under conditions in which the IPG and the candidate antagonist can compete;
 - (b) measuring the biological property of the IPG; and,
 - (c) selecting candidate antagonists which reduce the biological activity of the IPG.

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